

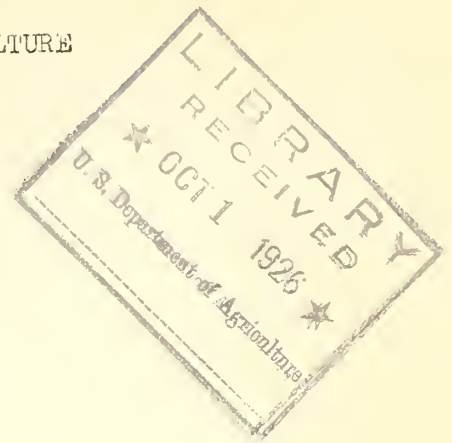
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
Washington

Office of
Chief of Bureau



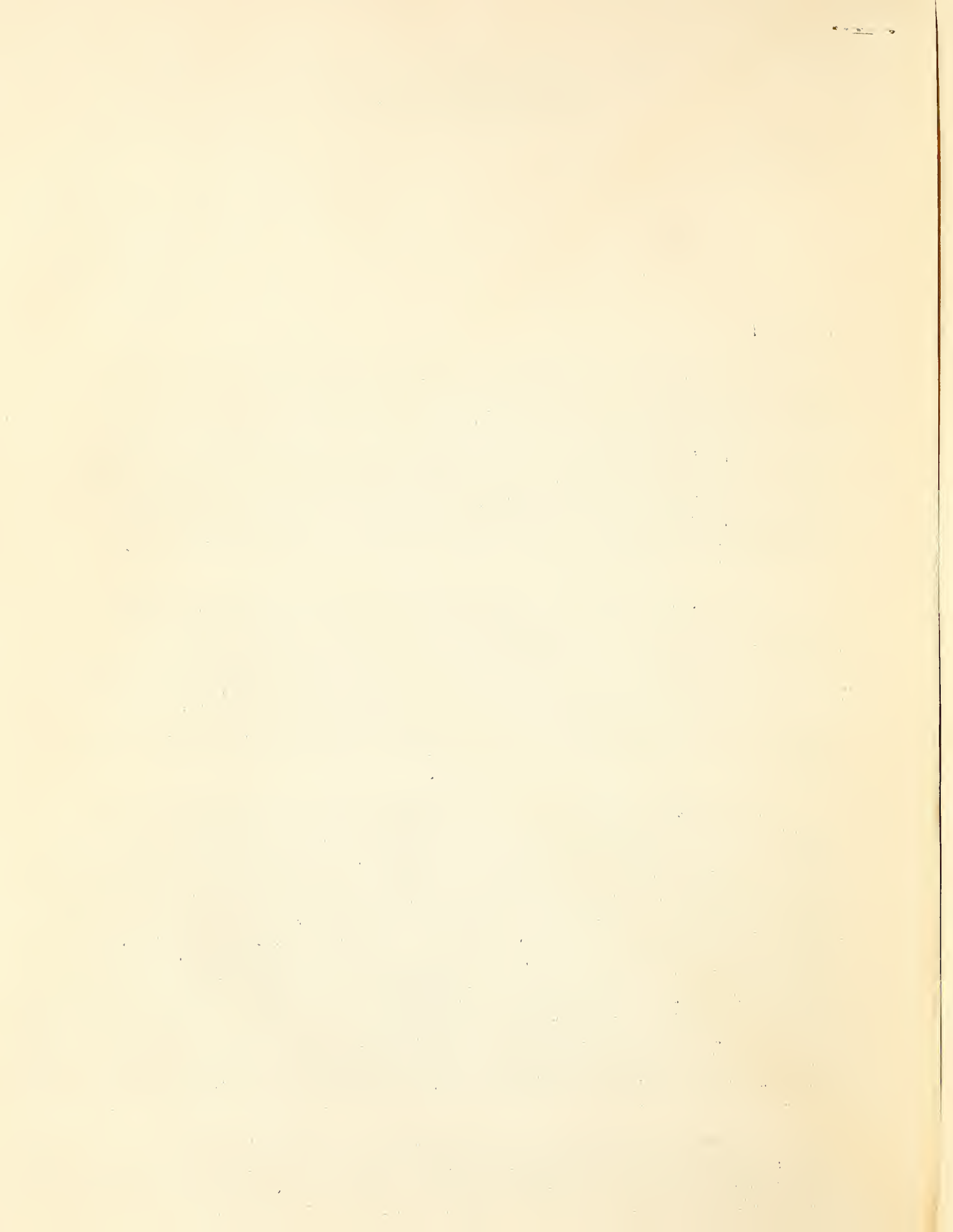
Dear Sir:

A copy of Notice of Quarantine No. 63, on account of white pine blister rust, together with a digest of the rules and regulations supplemental thereto, has been sent you by the Federal Horticultural Board. The Bureau of Plant Industry cooperates with the Federal Horticultural Board in carrying out the domestic quarantines on account of white pine blister rust and administers the Federal appropriations for blister rust control work, including quarantine inspection. Since Quarantine No. 63 will apply in greater or less degree to each State, it seems desirable to explain the purposes of this measure to State plant quarantine officials and State foresters.

Revision of the blister rust quarantine affects large commercial interests in many States. The principal thought in formulating this quarantine has been to provide adequate protection to the forests of five-leafed pines against artificial spread of the blister rust and, in so far as practicable, to aid the control programs for perpetuating these forests. However, consideration has been given also to the welfare of the currant and gooseberry production interests of the country and an effort has been made to impose no restrictions thereon not required by the exigencies of the blister rust situation.

The benefits under the new quarantine are (1) more effective safeguarding of the sugar pine forests of Oregon and California than if the entire State of Oregon had been quarantined; (2) drastic restriction of interstate movement of the European black currant, thereby supporting the campaigns of various States in the eradication of this most dangerous blister rust alternate host plant; (3) better protection of the white pine forests of the Appalachian Mountain region; (4) aid to States which have established blister rust control areas, through the requirement of a permit from such State before interstate shipments of blister rust host plants may enter such State; (5) liberalization of the present restrictions on movement of commercial Ribes plants which are known to be of a low degree of susceptibility to blister rust infection, but movement of such plants out of infected States permitted only under restrictions which make it safe to ship them into disease-free areas; (6) encouragement of a general program of nursery sanitation with respect to the blister rust, so that none but disease-free white pines and Ribes are produced, shipped, and planted.

The majority of infected States have laws designed to protect both their white pine and Ribes industries from loss due to the blister rust. Under these laws, various States are conducting blister rust control programs in close cooperation with the Bureau of Plant Industry and, as a vital part of the control



program, certain States have established specified areas within which the planting or possession of all Ribes is prohibited to safeguard the production of five-leaved pines in the areas. New York State has also established blister rust control areas ("fruiting currant districts") within which the planting or possession of five-leaved pines is prohibited as an aid to keeping the currant and gooseberry plants in such areas free from blister rust infection.

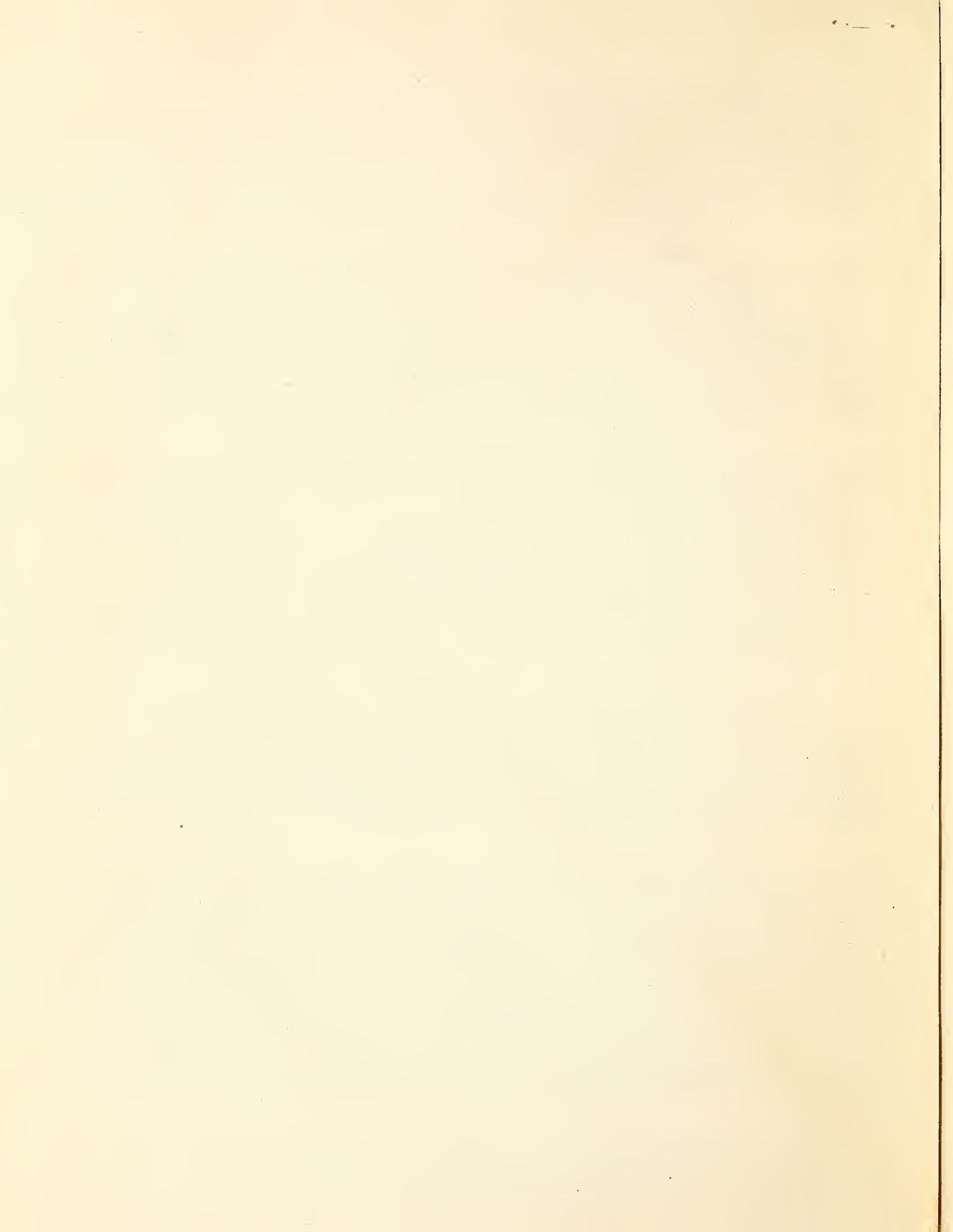
The nature of the blister rust is such that segregation of the alternate host plants of the rust on separate areas is essential to control of the disease. For this reason, it is expected that those lightly infected States which have not as yet established blister rust control areas will do so as the control programs of these States develop. Uninfected States which have large commercial forests of five-leaved pines may also be expected to declare blister rust control areas in cases where the disease threatens shortly to invade such States by natural spread from adjacent infected areas, in order to properly regulate planting of Ribes and five-leaved pines.

It is evident that to permit unrestricted entry of blister rust host plants into States which have established blister rust control areas would vitiate the blister rust control programs of these States. For this reason, the new regulations will require that each shipment of five-leaved pines or Ribes moved interstate into a State which has legally established a blister rust control area shall bear a permit from the State of destination. This is a highly important provision of the quarantine, in view of the fact that under the recent Supreme Court decision a State cannot by quarantine laws prevent the entrance of plants which are under Federal quarantine, and can deal with such plants under its police power only if brought into the State contrary to the provisions of the Federal quarantine.

The requirement of a permit from the destination State will not only enable such State to enforce its provisions with respect to blister rust control areas within its borders, but will also make known the location of white pine stock shipped interstate into portions of the State where planting of white pines is not prohibited under the State regulations, thus enabling the State authorities to secure the removal of Ribes plants in and adjacent to such planting for its protection from blister rust attack.

It should be clearly understood that this requirement of a State permit is wholly a Federal regulation and, in order for the Federal Government to enforce it, the State issuing such permit for entry of five-leaved pines and Ribes must qualify by presenting evidence to the Department of Agriculture that the State has actually established a blister rust control area or areas with definitely specified boundaries wherein the planting or possession of either five-leaved pines or Ribes is prohibited under the legal authority of the State. The permit can be withheld by the State only in cases where the State regulations prevent the planting of similar stock originating within the State. An entire State may be declared a blister rust control area, but no discrimination may be made in the restrictions imposed as between five-leaved pines or Ribes originating within the State and such plants originating outside of the State.

The new quarantine restricts the interstate movement of five-leaved pines from infected territory according to the degree of blister rust infection in each area and, so far as possible, in accordance with the recommendations of the responsible plant quarantine officials of the individual States. While some five-leaved



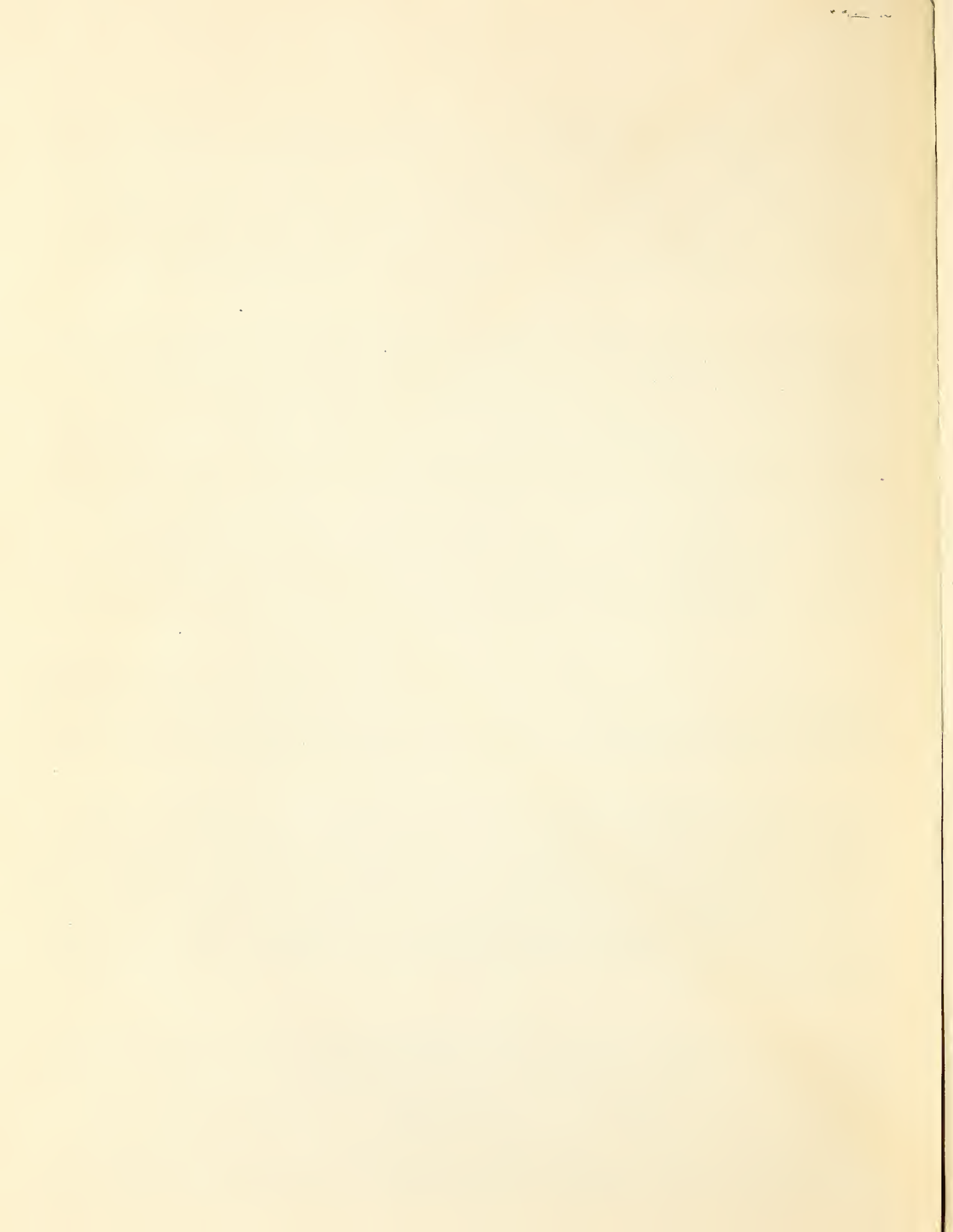
pine nursery stock has been grown under conditions which assure freedom of such stock from blister rust infection, blister rust protection of nurseries has not yet been generally applied and standardized to the point where a wide interstate movement of white pine stock from infected States is safe. However, when any infected State has instituted and successfully completed a nursery sanitation and general control program with respect to white pine blister rust (including systematic eradication of Ribes nigrum from the State), the Department will be willing to consider modification of the blister rust quarantine restrictions so as to permit a wider movement of five-leafed pines from such State.

Infected States which have eradicated all European black currants within the State could then safely be permitted to move five-leafed pines within contiguous infected territory provided such stock were grown from time of seeding in an area from which all Ribes had been eradicated in and surrounding the nursery within a radius of 1500 feet. This distance applies to the eastern half of the United States; more facts are required before the exact width of the Ribes-free protective zone around pine-growing nurseries in the western States can be definitely specified. However, except as to Ribes petiolare and R. bracteosum, there is no present indication that the protective zone around the nursery need be of greater width in the West than in the East. In both the East and the West, any large aggregation of bushes of Ribes aureum, R. odoratum or R. sanguineum may have to be removed within a greater distance than 1500 feet of the nursery. This would be determined by local conditions. A further requirement would be that the nursery and surrounding territory be inspected each year from the time the seed is sown to assure against replanting or regrowth of Ribes; such inspection to be made by an inspector of the United States Department of Agriculture.

In the more distant future, the Department may consider permitting movement of five-leafed pines under restriction (Federal permit) into the States east of the Mississippi Valley quarantine line from any infected eastern State which can satisfactorily demonstrate that every pine-growing nursery of the State contains only five-leafed pines grown under the control conditions previously specified.

The new quarantine prohibits interstate movement of the European black currant out of or into any State, except that such movement is permitted within twelve States in the Great Plains region and the extreme south, where there are no native white pines and where planted white pines are of minor importance because conditions are not highly favorable to their growth. In these twelve States, movement of Ribes nigrum is permitted only when the shipment is accompanied by a special certificate from the State nursery inspector of the State of origin. This Department considers Ribes nigrum a menace to the white pine timber supply of the country, and recommends that all States in which white pine is native take active steps to eradicate this plant.

The quarantine is to be effective in the State of Oregon only against the two infected counties of Clatsop and Tillamook and the five contiguous counties. This is done in view of the fact that State authorities are cooperating fully with the Federal Government in quarantine, scouting, and control activities in which the entire State is covered in an adequate manner. This intensive action in Oregon is required because the finding of blister rust infection in the northwestern counties leaves no alternative, if the disease is to be prevented from reaching the commercial sugar pine forest area in the southwestern portion of the State. In other infected States, the quarantine lines follow State boundaries,

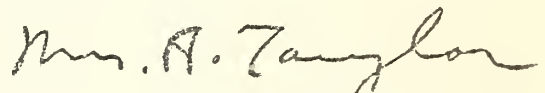


since this is the most practicable plan in view of the limited funds available for scouting and control work closely allied to quarantine enforcement such as, of necessity, is being done in Oregon. Where possible it is felt to be essential to have a safety zone between the infected pine districts and the line beyond which Ribes may be shipped without special treatment.

It is realized that this quarantine is somewhat complex and entails additional work on many State nursery inspectors. However, blister rust control presents a complex situation, owing to the varying conditions encountered in the 14 infected States and in the 22 additional States requiring a greater or less degree of protection. It is complicated also by the fact that the quarantine is concerned with both pines and Ribes and these host plants differ greatly as to their possibilities in spreading and establishing the disease. Every effort has been made to meet constructively the present situation with respect to the spread of blister rust and the regulations and the procedure thereunder have been simplified as far as is consistent with providing what is believed to be adequate safeguards against the spread of this disease.

It is hoped that all States will be in a position to cooperate effectively in carrying out the provisions of this quarantine.

Very truly yours,


Chief of Bureau.

